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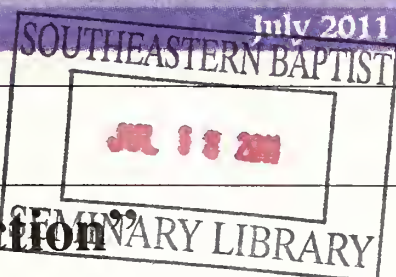
Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

July 2011

GBSC THEME

"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"

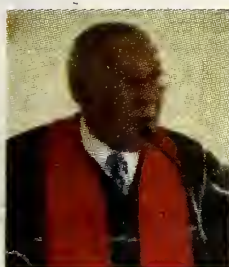
Matthew 28:19-20



Ministry Briefs

Pastor's Anniversary

The Reverend William E. Daye, founder and pastor of Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Apex, N.C. celebrated his 36th Pastoral Anniversary the weekend of June 24-25.



Reverend William E. Daye

A Durham native, Rev. Daye is a member of the New Hope Baptist Association, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham, and serves on the Board of Directors of the John Avery Boys Club of Durham. Guest preacher for the celebration was the Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Secretary-General of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Pastor's Anniversary

The Reverend Dr. Jordan Clifton Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesville, North Carolina, will celebrate his 49th Pastoral Anniversary on July 17.

Highlights of the celebration will include an 8 a.m. service with the Rev. Isaac Pettis, choir and congregation of Community Baptist

(Continued on next page)

"Moving In A New Direction"

By E.O Johnson/The Baptist Informer

Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Opens July 24th



Vernita A. Howze

More than 2,000 delegates and guests are expected when the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina presents its 127th Annual Session on July 24-28 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

The banquet speaker will be Dr. Vernita A. Howze, president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Michigan. Following the banquet, there will be a musical presentation under the direction of Dr. Roland Carter, the Ruth S. Holmberg Professor of American Music, at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

"Our guests and delegates can expect the red carpet treatment from the Raleigh Convention

Center," said the Reverend Linda W. Bryan, Executive-Secretary Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Additionally, "Our President (Audrey Battle) is moving in a different direction this year and she's determined to address social issues plaguing our communities. Our hope is to leave the convention with possible solutions."

Mrs. Howze, a Christian educator and community organizer who has traveled internationally, serves as a board member of the Women's Auxiliary of the

(Continued on next page)

Study examines What Families Want from Churches



WACO (ABP)—Conventional wisdom says "the family that prays together stays together." But one study of 15 Baptist congregations found that what families want most from their church are opportunities to serve.

In 2004, Baylor University researchers polled more than 3,000 members of churches in 12 states affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or both. While not statistically representative of all Baptists, researchers Diana Garland and Jo Edmonds said findings shed light on the struggles church families face at different stages of life.

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By Bill Wilson

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Our 144th Year

Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

1867 - 2011



Rev. Linda Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Audrey Battle, President of WBHFMNC-NC

National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. She is past president of the board of directors of the Community Conciliation Center in Michigan and was once appointed by the Governor of Michigan to study violence and vandalism in the public schools. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from

Shreveport Bible College.

During the Annual Session, workshops and discussions will focus on a variety of topics including bullying, human trafficking, boys in prisons, drugs and gang violence will be discussed during the four-day event. Pre-registration for seniors/young adults is \$25 per person; \$15 for youth.

The convention's host church is Christian Faith Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., where the Reverend Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. is pastor. Holy Communion will be served at Christian Faith beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 24.

The deadline to pre-register is July 15.

Attendees will be required to have a ticket for events. For more information, please contact the WBSC at (919) 833-4823 or www.wbhfmnc.org.

Convention Schedule

July 24, 7:00 pm Communion,
Christian Faith Bapt. Church, Raleigh, NC

July 25, 5:30 pm Annual Banquet,
Raleigh Convention Center (RCC)

8:00 pm Musical, RCC

July 26, 6:30 am Prayer Breakfast, RCC
12:30 pm Minister's Wives Luncheon, RCC.

July 26-28, 8:00-9:00 am Study Classes,
Sheraton Raleigh Hotel

9:30 am Opening Session, worship, RCC

7:00 pm Evening worship, RCC

Ministry Briefs continued from page 1)

Church; 11 a.m. worship with the Reverend Dr. W. B. Lewis, pastor of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., along with sons and daughters who were licensed at First Baptist Church; and a 3 p.m.



Reverend Dr. Jordan Clifton Harris

service with the Reverend Dr. Clifford A. Jones, choir and congregation from Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. The anniversary theme is "Greater is Thy Faithfulness."

Centennial Celebration

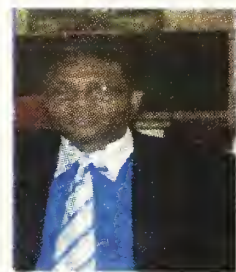
Mrs. Flossie H. Ferguson of Rockingham, N.C., celebrated her



Mrs. Flossie H. Ferguson

100th birthday on July 2 at Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Rockingham, N.C.

Mrs. Ferguson, affectionately known as "Grandma Flossie" or "Mrs. Flossie", is the widow of the late Rev. Dr. J.H. Ferguson and mother of Ms. Yvonne F. McGraw. She is the grandmother of the Rev. Darrell K. Ferguson and his wife, Kronski. Mrs. Ferguson is also the great-grandmother of Kimani Pridgen and Darrell K. Ferguson II. She was born on 30 June 1911 to the late Tom and Beatrice Hasty.



Reverend Horace Mason, Jr.

Anniversary Celebration
The Rev. Dr. Horace Mason, Jr., pastor of Pilot Missionary Baptist Church, in Zebulon, N.C., celebrated his 19th Pastoral Anniversary on May 15, 2011. The Reverend Charles Valentine, Jr. from Burning Bush Ministries, Inc. in Raleigh, N.C. delivered the anniversary message.

Laymen Visit Federal Correctional Facility

On May 29, 2011 the GBSC Laymen's League Prison Ministry visited one of the largest prisons in North Carolina in Butner, N.C.



Artie F. Kilgore

The Reverend Artie F. Kilgore, GBSC Laymen's League Prison Ministry Coordinator, delivered a message taken from Second Corinthians 5:17: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature" and the subject was "Victory Over Sin." When the call to discipleship was given, about 25 men came up to be prayed for or to seek guidance.

Others in attendance included Walter Powell of Bailey, N.C. who prayed and Roger Battle, Jr. of Nashville, N.C. who read scripture. Others in attendance were Richmond Turner, Anthony Hagans, Theodore David, Craig White, Walter Powell, Roger Battle, Jr. and Joseph Ricks.

The Laymen's Prison Ministry

was invited to return, and plans are underway to also visit other state and federal correctional centers in North and South Carolina.

IN OTHER NEWS ...

Southern Baptist Elect African-American

The Rev. Fred Luter, Jr., the pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, was recently elected to its No. 2 position, signifying an effort to diversify its leadership and flock at a time of overall membership and church attendance, according to press reports. Rev. Luter was elected with 1,558 votes, or 77 percent.



Re. Fred Luter, Jr.

- Compiled by E.O. Johnson/
The Baptist Informer /
www.informeditor@yahoo.com

"How Much Did Jesus Care?"

(Matthew 9:35-38)



Dr. Ricky L. Banks,
GBSC Second Vice
President

What do we do when we really care for another person? Fine as a specific action can be, care is far more than just a package of tangible items that we buy and send to someone in a distant place. Caring means becoming involved in the life of another person. It pre-

supposes personal relationships and face to face encounters. Linguistically, the words "care" and "cure" have sometimes been used synonymously. When we care for someone, we engage in load bearing, problem solving, pain soothing activity. Such care or cure tries to be, not a sedative, but a solution to some of the woes of life.

The gospel of Matthew 9:35-38 remind us that Jesus was a caring person. Notice the four verbs (action words) that Matthew used to tell of Jesus' work in Galilee. "Jesus went about, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kindgom, and healing every disease and every infirmity" (v.35).

Today we would call Jesus a public figure who made himself available to his contemporaries. He

practiced his ministry, not primarily from a cloistered retreat setting, but on the main streets of His day. He met people where they were socially, mentally, spiritually, and physically. His "care" included the total man the whole person.

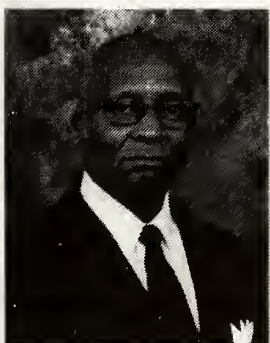
Matthew gave a moving description in verse 36 of how Jesus saw the crowds. Masses of people did not frighten Jesus. Neither was his response to the crowds that of flight or fight. He did not try to manipulate or exploit them. He did not use psychology on them. Instead, Jesus had compassion for them. Their aimless wandering and their anxious hurry made Jesus think of them as sheep without a Shepherd.

The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "compassion" to describe Jesus' feeling for peo-

ple, but the English Version uses the word "pity." Neither of these words conveys the full flavor of the original language in this regard. The actual Greek word here could be called a body language term today. It means that to see the crowds made Jesus feel something in the pit of his stomach. If you please, the crowds gave Jesus a "gut" feeling.

This does not mean that the crowds made Jesus sick. It does point out that the pull of the people stirred Jesus' deepest level of personal concern. He earnestly wanted to do something to make life easier and better for the multitudes. So glad Jesus cares. Blessings upon you.

Shaped for Service: Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts



Mr. Charles Dunn
GBSC Ushers
Auxiliary

God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves His purpose through them all.

When God shaped us, He shaped us in different ways. We are uniquely desired to do certain things. Before an architect designs a building, he decides what intent and purpose the building will be used for. The intended function always determines the form of the building. Before God formed or created us, He decided exactly what role He wanted us to play on earth, and so He shaped us for those tasks. You are the way you are because you were made for a specific ministry. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. We are not just an assembly line product, but a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind masterpiece designed by God.

David wrote in Psalm 139:13-14: "You made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me

together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex, your workmanship is marvelous." David continued in Psalm 139:16: "Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day has passed." This means nothing in your life is insignificant. God uses all of it to mold you for your ministry to others and shape your for service to Him. God did not give you abilities, interests, talents, gifts, personalities, and life experiences unless He intended to use them for His glory. By these factors, you can discover God's will for your life.

Whenever God gives us an assignment, He equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This custom combination of capabilities is called your shape.

S - Spiritual Gifts H - Heart A - Abilities P - Personality E - Experience

God gave every believer spiritual gifts to be used in ministry according to Romans 12:4-8: "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function so we, who are many, are one body in Christ." Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each of us exercise them according to the proportion of his faith.

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Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor



Seventy percent of families in the survey were married couples with or without children, far higher than the general population. One in four of those was a second marriage. Fewer than 1 percent were unmarried or separated couples, far below the national norm, while widowed single adults were double the rate of society as a whole.

Researchers asked respondents to mark items from a list of 37 possible causes of family stress. Four of the top five reported stressors involved physical or mental health. A third reported serious illness or disability of a family member, close friend or relative had caused stress for their family in the previous year. About one in four mentioned death of a loved one, depression or other serious emotional problems or financial strain.

Some stressors varied by age. Teenagers felt the same stressors their families reported, like death, illness and depression, but others—such as school problems and parent-child conflict—were unique to their age.

Among families in their 20s, 61 percent reported financial strain. Thirty-eight percent cited problems balancing work and family. Three in 10 reported stress about moving from one home to another.

Financial strain was somewhat less common for families in their 30s, but a new issue emerged—30 percent reported difficulty on the job for a family member.

Families in their 40s continued

to experience stress from balancing work and family and finances, about 40 percent each, while death of a family member, close friend or relative entered the top five most prevalent stressors, affecting 28 percent of families in the survey.

Respondents in their 50s carried the dominant stressors of younger groups, along with higher rates of worries related to physical or emotional health. Nearly half (46 percent) reported stress from serious illness or disability of a family member, close friend or relative, 38 percent from caring for a sick or disabled family member, and 36 percent because of a death. Financial strain remained a problem for more than a third (36 percent) of families in their 50s.

Financial strains decreased to 19 percent for families in their 60s and older, while health-related worries became more common. Nearly half (46 percent) cited stress from serious illness or disability of a loved one, 38 percent mentioned pressure of caring for a sick or disabled family member and 36 percent the death of someone close to them.

In terms of religious practice, daily Bible study and prayer historically have been considered important for Baptists, and 86 percent of individuals reported praying on a daily basis. Barely half, however, (55 percent) reported doing so as a family.

Fewer than one in four individuals said they studied their Bible daily. That rose to 62 percent on a

weekly basis. Researchers said that probably is a result of Sunday school and weekly Bible studies, but daily Bible studies by families was reported by a scant 5 percent.

The most common religious activities engaged as families were caring for the created world (more than 50 percent weekly), caring for others in need and helping their community to be a better place.

“These examples suggest that families are more likely to be engaged in the world around them as expressions of their faith than to be engaged in studying the Bible together,” researchers surmised. A majority also mentioned forgiving and encouraging others and talking and listening to one another’s deepest thoughts at least once a week.

Respondents also marked up to six items in a list of 47 ways in which they would like to see their church help their families. The most common were:

• **Serving others outside our family, 26.8 percent.**

• **Family prayer and devotional time, 21.8 percent.**

• **Communication skills, 20.6 percent.**

• **Developing a strong marriage, 19.6 percent.**

• **Developing healthy habits—eating, exercise, rest and recreation, 19 percent.**

• **Talking about our faith together, 18.5 percent.**

“A majority of these families already is engaged in their communities—serving others in need, caring for the created world, offering hospitality, seeking more justice in the world and stronger communities—and still list help in these areas at the top of their requests from their congregation,” researchers reported.

Second, researchers said, families wanted more help in developing prayer and devotional time as

families instead of as individuals. “Perhaps the most interesting challenge for the church is to offer guidance and support for families in these needs of common areas of concern that are grounded in the beliefs and values of the Christian faith,” researchers noted.

“Families can go to schools and community centers for marriage or parent education or anger or money management, but only the church can ground these life issues in Christian values and practices.

“Similarly, families can go to any number of social service agencies seeking volunteers and find ample opportunities to serve their communities. There are a myriad of ‘walks’ for various causes, community cleanups and so on. These families are asking their churches to ground their service in Christian mission.”

“They not only want to offer charity, they want to strengthen their communities,” the study concluded. “The data suggest that these families are seeking an integration of the life of service with the life of prayer and worship.”

Bob Allen is managing editor for Associated Baptist Press.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

General Baptist
State Conv. of NC:
919-821-7466

FEMA (federal aid):
1-800-621-3362

NC Hotline (state aid):
1-888-835-9966

NC Division of Emergency
Management www.ncem.org

NC Cooperative Extension
www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster

State Dept. of
Health/Human Services
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm

Opinion: Traps for clergy and their new congregation

By Bill Wilson

(ABP) -- In a recent conversation, a minister asked me what I thought were the major traps that most often snared ministers when they moved to a new congregation. Great question! Healthy churches and ministers pay attention to potential trouble spots and act in a proactive way to avoid getting derailed early in the new relationship.

Several traps come to mind:

The trap of expectations. Coming into a congregation as the new minister is a wonderful season of new beginnings and possibilities.



Bill Wilson

People await you with great expectations. Often those expectations are exaggerated and grandiose. You are seen as the one who will reverse decades of decline, inspire apathetic congregants, make everyone happy at all times and never disappoint. Sometimes the grandiosity is in the mind of the minister. She or he thinks this church is everything their last church was not. The grass looks so green on this side of the fence! Your own foibles and bad habits are overlooked in your infatuation with your new opportunity. Unrealistic expectations, wherever they originate, are a set-up. They lead us away from God's design for us and his church, and trap us in impossible situations. You will never succeed as the Messiah, and the congregation will soon expose its cracks and fissures and remind you that this really isn't heaven on earth. Talking about this and antici-

pating the inevitable disappointments is an essential component of a healthy relationship between minister and congregation. The humility that comes when we acknowledge that we are all earthen vessels and deeply flawed is a great place to begin a relationship between minister and congregation.

The trap of agendas. Your arrival invites the congregation to imagine new possibilities. That is a wonderful and divine part of the opportunity. However, it is helpful to remember that all of us have agendas. Some are overt, some quite covert. Simply put, some will see your coming as an opportunity to advance a cause or seek a role that has been thwarted previously. Your arrival is a new day that will bring frustrated congregants out of the woodwork. Others will assume they will have the same intimacy or insider status that they had with the

previous person in your position. Some will have been deeply disappointed by your predecessor and will greet you with frosty indifference.

Your job is to be aware. Avoid the trap of believing everything you hear. From search committee members to the most detached congregants, personal agendas abound. Watch with a degree of prayerful detachment those around you. Get up on a mental balcony in every meeting and during every conversation and ask yourself what is really going on. Constantly ask yourself: Why this? Why now? Your coming evokes a wide range of personal responses that you will be wise to take notice of in those early encounters.

The trap of talking. Since clergy are seemingly paid to speak, the usual pattern is that we do -- pro-

(Continued on page 7)

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WATCH SNACKS: New Study Examines Snack-Filled Diets

From Press Reports

A high-fat diet can be bad for your health. However, a snack-based "cafeteria"-style diet of highly palatable, energy-dense foods is even worse, according to new research.

A study by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that rats that ate snack foods commonly consumed by children and adults in the U.S. ate more, gained more weight, had more tissue inflammation and were intolerant to glucose and insulin (warning signs of diabetes) than rats whose diets were high fat from lard.

The study, the cover story of the June 2011 issue of the journal

"Obesity," showed that the "cafeteria diet" (an experimental system for studying obesity, also known as CAF, that mimics buffet-style access to junk food such as cookies, chips and processed meats) contributed more to diet-induced obesity than common high-fat diets typically used in rodent studies.

The results suggest that researchers can get more accurate information

from animal models that eat a diet that may resemble what humans consume. Use of the CAF model also may be useful for identifying novel options for preventative interventions or therapeutics to treat obesity in humans, the study noted.

"Obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States," said Liza Makowski, Ph.D., assistant professor of nutrition at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the study's senior

author. "These findings provide us with a better animal model to help explore what factors are contributing most to this dangerous trend, and what strategies for prevention and treatment of obesity will be most successful."

Using obese rats in laboratory experiments has been a common practice for decades,

but rodents are typically made obese on manufactured lard-based, high-fat diets, Makowski said. Her team showed that feeding the rats a diet that more closely resembles a typical American diet filled with snacks revealed even more severe risks and emphasized the potentially harmful nature of excessive snacking.

"Although we can't pinpoint what component of these snacks is causing these pre-diabetes condi-

tions, we show that the 'cafeteria diet' provides a more severe animal model of metabolic syndrome than lard-based high-fat diets," she said. Metabolic syndrome is the cluster of factors that increase a person's risk for coronary artery disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

"The rapid gain in weight, extensive obesity and multiorgan dysfunctions observed in the CAF model more closely reflect what is happening to humans who eat these snack foods regularly," Makowski said.

The researchers noted that rats fed the tasty, highly palatable "cafeteria diet" ate more food - about 30 percent more calories - than those eating high-fat or high-sugar diets.

"By the second week, rats on the lard-based high-fat diet actually ate less, dropping their caloric intake to the same intake as rats on a standard, or healthy, diet," Makowski said. "However, the CAF-fed rats continued to eat more, and gained almost double the weight of rats on the standard diet."



IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Robert Burley Gray III (age 53) of 2443 Poplin Springs Road, Roaring River, N.C. passed away on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital.

Rev. Gray was born in Surry County on October 14, 1957 to the late Robert Burley Gray Jr. and Mary Gaston Gray. He was a member of Poplar Springs Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmy Gray.

Reverend Gray was the former Moderator of Yadkin Valley Missionary Baptist Association and a former member of the General Board of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

He is survived by his wife of the home Karen Dowell Gray, two children, La'Keisha Gray Mann and husband Chad of Boonville, Robert Burley Gray IV of the home, brother, Clarence Gray and wife Betty of Jonesville, sister, Shelia Gray of Jonesville. Grandson, Chad La'Bren Mann, and several loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held Friday, 2:00 p.m., June 17, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Poplar Springs Baptist Church by the Reverend Preston Fulp. Rev. Gray was laid to rest in the church cemetery.

East Carolina University

Tomorrow starts here.



Are you an African American male? Have you had prostate cancer surgery?

The Center for Health Disparities Research at East Carolina University is conducting a research study entitled Prostate Cancer Recovery Enhancement for African American Men and Their Intimate Partners (PROCARE).

In collaboration with

Duke University Medical Center

Benefits of Participating

- Your participation in this study can help us better understand how to meet the needs of African American prostate cancer survivors, who often experience poorer outcomes compared to other groups.
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- Compensation
You will receive up to \$150 for your participation.

Do we need to drive to weekly sessions?

No. You and your partner can participate in the study without leaving home. Coping-skills training or prostate cancer education is delivered over the telephone. Speakerphones will be provided at no charge to each couple.

For more information, please contact:

Lisa C. Campbell, PhD
1-888-442-8202 (toll free)
PROCARE@ecu.edu

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fusely, often and repeatedly. Watch out for the trap of verbosity. The entry into a new congregation calls for a season of diagnostic rather than prescriptive conversations. If your medical doctor walked into the exam room and immediately began a monologue about their ideas for your health, without ever asking for input from you, I hope you would jump up and leave the room. I'd offer the same counsel to a congregation and its minister. Your role in the early days of your ministry is to have your ears wide open, your eyes wide open and your heart wide open. There will be a time to speak the truth you bring to the situation, but initially your talking should consist of words of invitation to others. Ask many, many questions, especially around

the themes of heritage and hopes. The trap of silence. To be blunt, after 100 days on the job, you had better have something to say. There are those who counsel a full year of observation before making any move toward acts of active leadership. The pace of our culture dictates a new reality. Your learning curve has been shortened and you must understand the trap that your silence as a leader, should it go too long, will be misinterpreted as your lack of ability to lead. Your first 100 days offer you a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to define yourself and establish some trajectories for your ministry. Pay attention to this time with careful and prayerful thought. I have seen some authors encourage breaking down your first 100 days into 10 ten-day blocks of

time and becoming exceptionally deliberate about the proactive use of those days. These are days to emphasize relationships over tasks, so plan your time accordingly. After 100 days, emerge from your time of study and observation with clear and compelling observations. The people need to hear from you. The rest of your first year will be a time to begin an extended congregational conversation which will shape the church's agenda for the near future. Use those days to engage people around "what if" questions. Invite them to dream with you and God about possibilities. Tell them what matters to you and what you love about them. Share with them a generous vision of the future and invite them to join you in creating that vision and

making it a reality. Speak up! Beware the traps and enjoy the ride. It really is a marvelous opportunity to start anew.

Bill Wilson is president of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer often seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of Informer's staff, GBSC or supporters. We welcome "Letters to the Editor." Reach us at informeditor@yahoo.com

Young and Healthy: Tools to Combat Childhood Obesity

From Press Reports

A new national report offers policy recommendations to curb the high rates of obesity among America's youngest children. The report, issued by the Institute of Medicine, includes guidelines

such as limiting television and other media use, encouraging infants and young children in preschool and child care to spend more time in physically active play, and requiring child care providers to promote healthy sleeping practices.

Alice Ammerman, Dr.P.H., professor of nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health and director of the UNC Center for Health Promotion and

Disease Prevention, served as an expert in nutrition and food marketing on the committee that issued the report. Other UNC nutrition faculty contributed their expertise.

The report outlines how children's activities and behaviors can be better shaped by child care centers, preschools, pediatricians' offices, federal nutrition programs and other facilities and programs. Although the recommendations are directed toward policymakers and health-care and child care providers, the report noted that professionals can counsel and support parents in promoting healthy habits in the home, too.

About 10 percent of children under 2 years old and slightly more than 20 percent of children aged 2 through 5 are overweight or obese. Rates of excess weight and obesity among children aged 2 to 5 have doubled since the 1980s.

"We used to think that chubby babies would 'grow out' of their baby fat, but increasing scientific evidence suggests that we need to be concerned about extra weight in very young children, because a chubby baby often becomes an overweight adult," Ammerman

said.

"Child care providers, health professionals and policymakers can be helpful partners to parents in reducing obesity risk by creating healthy environments and implementing positive practices during the crucial early years of development," said committee chair Leann

Birch, Ph.D., distinguished professor of human development and director of the Center for Childhood Obesity Research at Pennsylvania State University. The committee recommended a multi-pronged approach to combating early childhood obesity, including:

- **Identifying At-Risk Children.** Health professionals should measure infants' weight and length and young children's body mass index at every well-child visit.
- **Sufficient Sleep.** The amount of sleep infants and children get has decreased over the past two decades. Regulatory agencies should require child care providers to promote healthy sleep durations in their facilities. Pediatricians, early childhood educators, and other professionals should be trained to counsel parents about age-appropriate sleep times and good sleep habits.
- **Physically Active Play and Sedentary Activities.** Children should be engaged in physically active play for a cumulative average of at least 15 minutes per hour spent in care, playing outside when possible. Child care providers should limit television viewing and use of computers, mobile devices and other digital technologies to less than two hours per day for children aged 2 to 5.
- **Healthy Eating.** Health-care providers and organizations should step up efforts to encourage breastfeeding. All child care facilities and preschools should be required to follow meal patterns established by the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program, which promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, age-appropriate use of sugar, salt, fat and necessary nutrients, and provides guidance on appropriate portion sizes.

"With obesity, perhaps more than any other health problem, the factors responsible are enormously diverse, complex and interconnected," Ammerman said. "This also means that there is no single, 'magic bullet' solution to the problem."



OUTLOOK - 2010-2014

MANTRA: JESUS IS LORD!

OBJECTIVE: DEPLOYING MEN WITH CHRIST:

A CALL FOR RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

The N. C. Laymen's League Auxiliary wishes to give some insight into our outlook, over the next several years, and hopefully promote more interest and dialogue from our affiliates and partners across the state. One of the many challenges that the auxiliary faces, is in the name itself. Most churches will inform us that they do not have a Laymen's Organization.

They claim: Men's Ministry, Brotherhood, Deacon Ministry or no organized ministry for men. So immediately terminology is problem. The problem is similar to most of our churches being named as; "mis-

sionary Baptist church" and no one is on mission, except maybe the women of the church. The laymen



Mr. Richmond Turner,
GBSC Laymen's League

are, in short, the other half of the missionary department of our churches, consisting of men and women. So if you a member of "XYZ Missionary Baptist Church" and affiliated with the GBSC, Inc., you are a part of the Laymen Organization.

Our Handbook states: "The Laymen's League is a movement of Christian men to christianize the community in which they live (City, State, National and the World)". On that

note, the North Carolina Laymen Partners with the National Baptist Convention Laymen's Movement, and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission's Laymen and some of our constituents supports the World Baptist Alliance.

Since we are a movement, it's not in the name, but in the partnerships that we establish to carry out the mandate commanded in Acts 1:8. Therefore, our objective is to deploy men with Christ. Our Mantra - "Jesus is Lord!" has scriptural justification.

In First Corinthians 12:3, it reads: "Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

Belief in Romans 10:9-10, requires two things. First, the confession that Jesus is Lord, meant the acknowledgement that Jesus shares the Name and Nature, the holiness, the authority, power, majesty and eternity of the one and only true God...There is expressed in addition the sense of His owner-

ship of those who acknowledge Him and of their awareness of being His property. Secondly, it requires that you believe God raised Christ from the dead. This speaks to the responsibility which the Gospel brings is not only to accept its offer, but afterwards take the Good News out to the World. So our Mantra; is to be our guiding principle.

Our priority must be placed on calling men to repentance. Time is short, and there is an urgency. We need to get back to the primary task of the church: Proclaiming the love of God to a lost world. Please visit us on our State Laymen's blog at <http://gbscnc-ll.blogspot.com>. We welcome your comments!

Purpose: To transform Christian men into mature devoted disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training.

Sub-Theme: Spiritual Men in Solidarity with the Savior by Preaching...Teaching...Reaching... (2 Timothy; Matt. 28:18-20).

Submitted by: Richmond Turner, President, NCLL

Dear Lott Carey Partner:

I recently attended the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing "Rebuilding Haiti in the Martelly Era" about reconstruction in Haiti. I share this with you because this development is directly related to the work that you have been supporting in the aftermath of the historic earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010.



We Are Delivering through Services

Following the earthquake, Lott Carey was immediately involved in responding through shelter, food, medical services, cash grants, and the like. Beyond Lott Carey's direct service delivery support, we have been part of the African

American Baptist Mission Collaboration which is a partnership the leading Baptist Communities of African American heritage: the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; National Baptist Convention of America; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; and Progressive National Baptist Convention. In 2010, we pledged and paid a grant of one million dollars (\$1M) to Habitat for Humanity International to provide housing solutions. Our investment of transitional shelters in Cabaret has benefited more than 8,100 people. Our investment of permanent housing solutions in Leogane will result in building 80 or more houses in a new planned neighborhood of safe and secure housing of 500 units. Additionally, our support will enable people to receive training on financial literacy as well as a facility for skills training to improve employability opportunities for people in that area.

Beginning in the fourth quarter

of 2011 and throughout 2012, we will coordinate several short-term missions assignment opportunities to serve in Haiti. We will announce the schedule in August. We also have the capacity to shape short-term missions assignments for churches or organizations who have a team that desires to work together. Our project manager for service and advocacy in Haiti is Kathi L. Reid (kreid@lottcarey.org) who is ready and able to resource you in these efforts.

We Are Delivering through Advocacy

In March 2011, our office (which is the coordinating node for The Collaboration) facilitated A Summit on Advocacy for Haiti on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. More than 50 people attended from the Haitian Diaspora and African American church communities. This Advocacy Coalition includes the participation of the above mentioned Baptist communions of African American heritage as well as the African Methodist Episcopal

Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Further, our new advocacy community includes African American congregations in historical Anglo American denominations. This coalition of African American Christian Communities and the Haitian Diaspora is an unprecedented expression of solidarity and community and cooperation.

Our advocacy agenda is designed:

- To support reconstruction that is transparent, accountable, and inclusive of the Haitian population, the Haitian Diaspora and African-Americans;
- To advance policies that contribute to the economic vitality and sustainability of all participants in the agricultural sector with particular attention to small farmers; and,
- To promote fair and humane immigration policy.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Among the victories that we celebrate being part of is the decision by the federal government to extend the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians in the US through January 2013. This prevented large-scale deportations to Haiti which is ill-equipped to

absorb the additional citizens.

Further, we requested US Senate hearings to clarify processes and progress around reconstruction to ensure inclusion and transparency. This is the hearing Ms. Reid and I will attend today.

The missional agenda for the

church includes evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy. We rejoice in our service to the Reign of God in this world as we advocate for justice for our sisters and brothers in Haiti. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry

Striving for justice,
David

Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley,
Ph.D.

Lott Carey

Is Marriage a

“Dying Institution?”

Marriage is a “dying institution,” actress Cameron Diaz claimed recently. And the movie star’s assertion hit a nerve.

“I think we have to make our own rules,” Diaz said in the June issue of *Maxim* magazine. “I don’t think we should live our lives in relationships based off of old traditions that don’t suit our world any longer.”

She isn’t alone. Fox News expert Keith Ablow roiled conservative viewers by not only applauding Diaz but adding that in his clinical judgment, “marriage is—as it has been for decades now—a source of real suffering for the vast majority of married people.”

Diaz, 38, who famously has dated

celebrities Justin Timberlake, Matt Dillon and most recently New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez, recently shared with *Elle* Magazine: “I think a lot of people are married to people that they’re not romantic with anymore. I just didn’t ever marry anybody that I then had to get divorced from. We break up. We move on.”

A conference in April by the conservative think tank Ethics and Public Policy Center examined “a retreat from marriage” over the last 50 years.

Bradford Wilcox of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia said the United States “has witnessed a dramatic retreat from marriage, marked by the declining role of marriage as the anchor for the adult life course and the publicly recognized vehicle for lifelong love, sex

and the bearing and rearing of children.”

Fewer adults are getting married. The percentage of middle-aged adults who are married has declined from about 88 percent in 1960 to about 66 percent today. Divorce has more than doubled since the 1960s but recently has seen a slight decline, attributed in part to the fact that more and more couples are living together without getting married.

Statistics just reported from last year’s census show that for the first time, married couples are the minority in America, accounting for 48 percent of all households. That’s down from 52 percent 10 years ago. The number of opposite-sex couples who opt to live together without getting married is 7.5 million, up 13 percent from 2009.

A May Gallup Poll found 60 per-

cent of Americans now believe it is morally acceptable for an unmarried man and woman to have sex, while 36 percent believe it is morally wrong. More than half, 54 percent, said it is OK for a man and woman to have a baby outside of marriage, compared to 36 percent who said it is morally wrong.

Nearly seven in 10, 69 percent, said divorce can be morally acceptable, compared to 23 percent who disagreed. Just 11 percent, however, said it is OK for a married person to have more than one spouse at a time and 91 percent said that it is immoral for a married man and woman to have an affair.

Bob Allen is managing editor for Associated Baptist Press.

PASTORAL VACANCY

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

KITTRELL, NORTH CAROLINA 27544

The congregation is actively seeking applicants for the position of Pastor. Grace has a small congregation and is located in Vance County, Kittrell Township. Worship services are held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and Bible Study each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Basic Qualifications:

- Licensed/ordained Baptist denomination
- Preaching/teaching experience
- Good administrative skills
- Some seminary/bible college training
- Five years or more in ministry
- Knowledge of Baptist doctrines and polity; church covenant and policies

All interested applicants should provide the following:

- A letter of interest
- A resume of relevant experience
- A copy of certificate of license and ordination
- Letters of reference (3) – no relatives

Other Attributes:

- Good communication skills
- Good leadership abilities
- Demonstrate a willingness to be involved in the community
- Possess a personable demeanor

Applicants must be willing to submit to a criminal background check.

Deadline:

Applications should be postmarked no later than August 1, 2011

Please submit application materials to:

Grace Missionary Baptist Church

ATTENTION:

Pastoral Search Committee,

P. O. Box 283,

Kittrell, NC 27544

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MEN & BOYS RETREAT

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Auxiliary will hold its Annual Laymen's Men and Boys Retreat July 8-9 at the M. Rouse Jr. Community Resource Center in Raeford, N.C. This year's goal is to have 100 boys participate in the annual event. For more information, please contact Jerry A. Ratchford at (704) 585-6204 or jerrykappa@bellsouth.net

LOTT CAREY

Lott Carey's 114th Annual Session will convene August 15-19 in Memphis, Tennessee. Attractions will include the Civil Rights Museum and a worship service at the Cook Convention Center where host Pastor, Dr. Gina M. Stewart, and the Christ Missionary Baptist Church will relocate their Sunday morning worship experience. Discounted airline rates have been arranged through

Delta Airlines. For more information, please visit www.lottcarey.org under the "Annual Gatherings" tab.

WALTER CADE WORKSHOP

The 15th Annual Walter Cade Jr. Workshop, presented by the National Baptist Laymen, will be held September 23-25 at the Best Western Hotel in High Point, N.C. A workshop package will include two nights lodging, registration and five "Southern" meals for \$160 per person for a double occupancy and \$225 for singles. Additional meal tickets will be available for children at half-price. For details about the conference and/or the Souvenir Journal, contact Michael E. Bodie, housing chairperson, at (336) 886-3397 or James Simon, advertising chairperson, at (336) 884-0169. Early registrations are encouraged since participants will be coming from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Online registrations are available at www.templememorial.com.

OTHER EVENTS:

August 2011

- 6th GBSC Ushers Executive Board Meeting, Mount Peace Baptist Church, Raleigh
- 15th - 19th Lott Carey Annual Session, Memphis, Tennessee
- 27th WBN&FMC Southern Regional Summit
- TBA Laymen's Scouting Camporee

September 2011

- 5th-9th National Baptist Convention USA Annual Session, Orlando Convention Center, Orlando, Florida
- 10th GBSC Laymen's Mens Retreat, Piedmont Region -- Place to be determined
- 23rd - 25th National Baptist Convention USA Walter Cade Southeast Regional Workshop, Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, High Point
- 24th WBH&FMC Family Missions Conference, Place TBA

October 2011

- 21st Shaw University Fall Convocation, Progress Energy Center, Raleigh
- 21st Shaw University Board of Trustees Meeting, President's Conference Room, Estey Hall, Shaw University
- 24th General Board Meeting, Place to be determined
- 24th - 26th GBSC 144th Annual Session, Place to be determined

Pastoral Vacancy

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. of Reidsville, NC

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church located at 179 Jones Chapel Road, Reidsville, North Carolina has a pastoral vacancy. The church was founded in 1867 and established in 1872. The approximately 175 member congregation is seeking pastoral leadership that meets the following qualifications.

- Licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- At least five years of ministerial experience
- Bible College Degree
- *Teach as well as preach God's Word*
- Spirit-filled and God-fearing
- Interested in winning souls to Christ
- Excellent leadership skills
- Broad knowledge of the Baptist doctrine and polity
- Willingness to follow the Church Bylaws
- Visionary in church growth and development
- Live Christ-like inside and outside the church
- Skilled spiritual counselor with high moral integrity
- Involved in Local, State, and National Baptist Associations
- Excellent communication skills
- Provide for spiritual growth for ALL age groups, especially for youth
- Submit to a Criminal Background Check and a Credit Check

How to Apply:

All interested and qualified persons should submit résumés on or before September 1, 2011 to:

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
% Pastoral Search Committee
315 Cole Road
Reidsville, NC 27320

Additional question may be submitted via email to jjcmbcreidsvillenc@usa.com.

Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church

Belton Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, North Carolina is currently accepting resumes for the position of Pastor.

Belton Creek is affiliated with the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association

Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Born again Christian, committed to Baptist doctrines and policies.
- Ordained Pastor with pastoral experience
- Willingness to work with all ministries of the church
- Good reputation
- Must be married and manages household well
- Demonstrates leadership skills and enhance spiritual growth
- Qualified and gifted to preach and teach the word of God and counsel with clarity and understanding.
- Support and attend trainings and workshops with the United Shiloh Association and General Baptist State Convention (GBSC)

Please mail resume and letters of reference to
Belton Creek Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 22, Oxford, North Carolina, 27565.
Attn: Deacon William Cozart, Chairperson

Apply on or before August 31, 2011

In Praise Of Marriage: Believers Must Proclaim Joy Of Godly Marriages

By Lida H. Moore
Guest Columnist/The Baptist Informer
Reprinted by Permission of The Good News

Because of a well-publicized Pew Research survey a couple of months ago, headlines have touted that many Americans consider marriage to be obsolete and on the way out as part of our society. But, as many prepare to celebrate the popular, commercial winter holiday Valentine's Day, it may be a good time to remember why God created marriage in the first place and how His Word reminds us of the value of true love and commitment.

Believers, afflicted by the same high divorce rate statistics of nonbelievers, must recognize that we have to begin modeling God's ways for having a healthy, vibrant marriage, especially to young people and to those trapped in the world's system of moving from relationship to relationship, with no commitment. We must reverse the trends of today's view of marriage and demonstrate that marriages, based on godly principles and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, are able to overcome the predictable human struggles and find joy and delight in the journey of being committed to one person for life. In doing this, we will further God's kingdom.

As you may recall, it all began in Genesis 2:18, when God made it clear why marriage is important in our world. "God said 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

In a November Focus on the Family blog by the organization's president, Tom Daly, he pointed out that statistics show that many people fear being lonely. Although we are sup-

posed to be the most well-connected society, technologically speaking, than ever before, 20% of people in America are lonely. Daly notes, "Designed as a gift to mankind that



brings glory to the Creator, marriage is an institution critical to the sustainability and stability of society. It will never be obsolete, because God has built every human being a desire for companionship and craving to love and be loved."

And so in Genesis 2, God made a woman out of the man's rib and the man said in verse 23, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

So God meant for marriage to be a man and a woman coming together and becoming one -- physically, emotionally, spiritually, and in every way. When this happens, each person has to put aside and release, among other things, his or her own self-interests, pride, and selfishness. Instead, each person must embrace qualities such as forgiveness, self-control, and patience. In a marriage, we must choose to make sacrifices for the sake of the long-term stability and viability of the marriage and because we truly love and care about the well-being of our spouse. Of course, on our own, this is very difficult to achieve because let's face it: We all want our own way when we want it.

But, with God's power through the Holy Spirit, we are able to let go

of those parts of our personality that will get in the way of sustaining a Godly, healthy marriage. It's certainly not easy and it takes a conscious, prayerful effort to look out for the other person's feelings, interests, and well-being above our own. Indeed, it's not a natural, easy process. It takes time and ongoing hard work (as long as one is married) to choose to put the other person's interests above one's own. If both parties do this for the other one, then in the end, both husband and wife will be secure in and satisfied with life and the marriage relationship. It's a give and take, not one winner gets it all.

It's certainly worth it -- to cultivate, preserve, and cherish a relationship with one person, overlooking annoyances, slights, bad habits, forgiving big and little mistakes, as well as forsaking all others. In the same way, a spouse recognizes that the other person is there to do the same as both of you commit to a relationship for a lifetime, through the good times and bad times. We also know from research that people who are married in stable relationships are happier, live longer, and are more financially secure throughout their lives. Thus, a marriage commitment has many more rewards and benefits than negatives for the individual willing to make the sacrifices involved.

As believers we have to actively share with our young people and those with worldly views of relationships that committing to marriage is a wonderful journey that brings much more joy than sorrow. Because in life we do have to recognize that struggles are real, and it is so much better to share them with the person you have become one with in marriage. Statistics also point out what God already planned for us, that when it comes to bringing children into this world, it is far better that children grow up in a stable family with a mom and a dad.

Still every day, we are bombarded with negative marriage images as Daly pointed out in his November blog, "Even the most casual observer or critic of marriage would acknowledge that the institution is too often held in very low cultural esteem. From television to movies to music, the bonds of matrimony are often lampooned as chains that bind and confine as opposed to the great anchor of stability God intended them to be. Since the church is only as healthy as its most unhealthy people, we, too, bear blame. Have we not often been more inclined to focus on the challenges of marriage than on the joy it brings?"

So as you celebrate Valentine's Day this year, be resolved to remember and practice God's best for His creation when it comes to marriage and love, and share with others the joys of being in a godly marriage. Remember what His Word tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Of course, this is a tall order for any of us to fill on our own. But with God's help, power, and strength, we can have marriages that are a testament of what God can do in the lives of saved sinners who once were lost but are now found. And because of God's grace and love, we can have marriages that bring out the sweet, endearing fellowship that is so special and indescribable for believers committed to one another for life. And through these marriage testimonies, we can point the lost world to Him and His saving grace.



Couples from St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte attended a Second Annual Couples Retreat in late May at Lake Junaluska in Haywood County, N.C.

The three-day program, presented by the church's F.L.A.M.E (Family Living and Marriage Enrichment) Ministry, was conducted by the Reverend Donald Stevenson and his wife, Dr. Sara Stevenson, of the National Christian Family Resources Council.

(Photo submitted by Rev. Stevenson)



GBSC SUMMER AUXILIARY SESSION Wednesday-Friday, July 13-15, 2011

Riley Hill Baptist Church
6101 Riley Hill Road, Wendell, North Carolina
Dr. Alfonza W. Fullwood, Pastor

The Summer Auxiliary Session is comprised of the following:

LAYMEN'S ANNUAL SESSION (July 13)
CONGRESS ANNUAL SESSION (July 14)
USHERS ANNUAL SESSION (July 15)

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State Missions since 1867.

